

DIANA CAROLINA ACOSTA ROJAS

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I am broadly interested in the ecosystems services derived of ecological processes that sustain plant regeneration dynamics such as seed dispersal by animals. My research has mainly focused on understanding the quality of seed dispersal by Neotropical frugivorous species. I'm deeply keen on initiatives of public awareness of environmental sciences.

CURRENT POSITION

2018 – *in process*. PhD student in Biological Sciences

Goethe University and Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F), Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

Advisor: Matthias Scheluning, PhD. Co-Advisors: Eike-Lena Neuschulz, PhD., Boris Tinoco, PhD., and Carlos Iván Espinosa, PhD.

“Plant functional diversity and seed rain along land-use and elevational gradients in southern Ecuador”

EDUCATION

2017. M.Sc. in Protected Areas, Natural Resources and Biodiversity.

Universidad de Murcia, Murcia, Spain.

Advisor: Pilar de la Rúa Tarín, PhD.

“Mutualistic networks of seed dispersal in 5220* habitat”

2015. M.Sc. in Biological Sciences.

Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia.

Advisor: Pablo Stevenson, Ph.D.

“Seed dispersal quality by woolly monkeys (*Atelidae: Lagothrix lagotricha lugens*): Effects of gut treatment on seed germination”

2010. B.S., Biology

Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia.

Advisor: Alba Marina Torres González, Ph.D.

“Frugivory and seed dispersal by Colombian chachalaca (*Ortalis Columbiana*, Aves: Cracidae)”

PUBLICATIONS

Fonseca, M.L., Cruz D.M., Acosta-Rojas, D.C., Páez-Crespo, E.J. & P. Stevenson. (2019). Influence of arthropod and fruit abundance on the dietary composition of Highland Colombian Woolly Monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha lugens*). *Folia Primatológica* (90)4:240-257.

Cruz, D.M., Acosta-Rojas, D.C. & P. Stevenson. (2018). Are seeds able to germinate before fruit color ripening? Evidence from six Neotropical bird dispersed plant species. *Ecosphere* 9(6), e02174.

Stevenson, P., Cardona, L., Acosta-Rojas, D.C., Henao-Díaz, L.F. & S. Cárdenas. (2017). Diet of Oilbirds in Cueva de Los Guácharos National Park (Colombia): temporal variation in dispersal quantity, fruit choice and seed morphology. *Ornitología Neotropical*, 28:295-307.

Farji-Brener, A., Chinchilla, F., Umaña, M.N., Ocasio-Torres, M., Chauta-Mellizo, A., Acosta-Rojas, D.C., Marinaro, S., de Torres Curth, M. & S. Amador-Vargas. (2015). Branching angles reflect a tradeoff between reducing trail maintenance costs or travel distances in leaf-cutting ants. *Ecology* (96)2:510-527.

Acosta-Rojas, D.C., Muñoz, M.C., Torres A.M., & G. Corredor. (2012). Dieta y dispersión de semillas: ¿Afecta la guacharaca colombiana (*Ortalis columbiana*) la germinación de las semillas consumidas? *Ornitología Neotropical* 23:439-453.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2016. *Scholarship by practical formation*. Autoridad Portuaria de Cartagena and Universidad de Murcia, Spain.

2015. *Scholarship by young researcher*. Departamento Administrativo de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación – COLCIENCIAS, Colombia.

2014. *Grant MMBF Primate Action Fund*. Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation – CI. United States.

2013. *Scholarship to attend the course on Ecology of Neotropical Primates*. Deutsches Primatenzentrum, Perú.

2013. *Grant Proyecto Semilla*. Biological Sciences Department, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia.

2012. *Scholarship to attend the course on Tropical Ecology and Conservation*. Organization for Tropical Studies OTS – Universidad de Costa Rica, Costa Rica.

2011. *Scholarship by young researcher*. Departamento Administrativo de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación – COLCIENCIAS, Colombia.

CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

7 talks (1 on international conferences and 6 on regional conferences) and 3 poster presentations (1 on international conference and 2 on regional conferences).

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Teaching 2012 – 2016:

- *Practices of Biology for psychologists*. Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá – Colombia.
- *Practices of Ecology*. Universidad de Los Andes, Bogotá – Colombia.
- *Population Biology*. Universidad Militar Nueva Granada. Bogotá – Colombia.
- *Systematics and Plant Taxonomy*. Universidad Militar Nueva Granada. Bogotá – Colombia.
- *Collection and analysis of fecal samples with ecological, physiological and molecular approaches*. Colombian Primatological Association, Bogotá – Colombia.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

“100 families healing a mountain”

September 2017 – February 2018. Botanical and ecological restoration assessor. Cali Zoo. Cali - Colombia.

“Evaluation of pollination and seed dispersal networks as key factors to conserve the habitat of Cartagena Coast”

February 2017 – July 2017. Research assistant. Universidad de Murcia. Murcia – Spain.

“Determinants of the morphology of fruits and seeds in rainforest plants”

February 2015 – February 2016. Research assistant. Universidad de los Andes. Bogotá - Colombia.

“Diet of Oilbirds in Cueva de Los Guácharos National Park (Colombia)”

September 2012 - February 2016. Research assistant. Universidad de los Andes. Bogotá - Colombia.

*“Seed dispersal quality by woolly monkeys (Atelidae: *Lagothrix lagotricha lugens*): Effects of gut treatment on seed germination”*

September 2012 – December 2014. Researcher. Universidad de Los Andes. Bogotá – Colombia.

*“Effects of arils on seed dispersal and germination: The case of *Cupania latifolia* and its role on reforestation”*

March 2011 – March 2012. Researcher. Universidad del Valle. Cali - Colombia.

*“Frugivory and Seed dispersal by Colombian chachalaca (*Ortalis columbiana*, Aves: *Cracidae*)”*

December 2008 – April 2009. Researcher: Universidad del Valle. Cali – Colombia.

“Incorporation of biodiversity in coffee landscapes in Colombia”

October 2009 – December 2009. Botanist assistant. United Nations Development Programme PNUD – National Federation of Coffee Growers. Cali – Colombia.

PARTICIPATION IN INITIATIVES OF PUBLIC AWARENESS OF SCIENCES

October 2016 – July 2017.	Environmental educator. Project “Jardín 2.0”.	Turismo Botánico.	Spain
June 2013 – June 2015.	Environmental educator. Project “Woolly monkeys: sowers of life”	Universidad de los Andes	Colombia
February 2010 – December 2010.	Coordinator of Science Club.	Cali Zoo.	Colombia
October 2006 – 2009.	Environmental Educator.	Cali Zoo.	Colombia

ACADEMIC SERVICES

- Member of the Board of Directors and Coordinator of APC-CPBIOL Agreement. Colombian Primatological Association (2015 – 2018).
- Scientific Committee. VI Botanical Colombian Congress. Colombian Association of Botany, Cali, Colombia, from August 11 to 15, 2011.
- Organizing Committee. II Symposium of the Colombian Network of Evolutionary Biology. Universidad del Valle – Universidad Icesi, Cali, Colombia, from October 15 to 17, 2009.